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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/662,926	09/12/2003	Ping-Ting Lin	PUSA030758	1774
23595	7590	11/10/2005	EXAMINER	
NIKOLAI & MERSEREAU, P.A. 900 SECOND AVENUE SOUTH SUITE 820 MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402			RIVELL, JOHN A	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3753	

DATE MAILED: 11/10/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/662,926	Applicant(s) LIN, PING-TING	
	Examiner John Rivell	Art Unit 3753	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 9/12/03 (application).
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 and 16-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 14 and 15 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 12 September 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Art Unit: 3753

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 3, 6-9, 11, 12, 13, and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 (b) as being anticipated by the prior art disclosed in instant figure 7 of the application.

The device of the prior art of figure 7 discloses an “air tap assembly, comprising: an air pipe (10) having an outer wall formed with a plurality of locking members (read on threads 14); and a valve cap (20) rotatably and movably mounted on the air pipe (10) and having an inner wall formed with a plurality of locking members (read on threads 24) each engaged on a bottom of a respective one of the locking members (14) of the air pipe (10)” as recited. The recitation of “locking members” as well as the recitation of the “valve cap (being) rotatable and movably mounted on the air pipe” does not distinguish from the threaded connection illustrated in the prior art.

Regarding claim 3, in the device of the prior art, “each of the locking members (14) of the air pipe (10) has a wedge shape” as normal thread design forms a “wedge” when viewed along a certain arcuate distance.

Regarding claim 6, in the device of the prior art, “each of the locking members (24) of the valve cap (20) has a wedge shape” as normal thread design forms a “wedge” when viewed along a certain arcuate distance.

Regarding claim 7, in the device of the prior art, “the air pipe (10) has an inner wall formed with an air conduit (101) and has a top formed with an annular groove (13)

communicating with the air conduit (101), and the valve cap (20) has a top formed with an adjusting valve (2) detachably mounted in the annular groove (13) of the air pipe (10) as recited.

Regarding claim 8, in the device of the prior art, "the adjusting valve (21) of the valve cap (20) is extended downward from the top of the valve cap (20)" as recited.

Regarding claim 9, in the device of the prior art, "the top of the valve cap (20) is formed with a plurality of air vents (22) each communicating with the air conduit (101) of the air pipe (10) when the adjusting valve (21) of the valve cap (20) is detached from the annular groove (13) of the air pipe (10)" as recited.

Regarding claim 11, in the device of the prior art, "the valve cap (20) further includes a washer (11) mounted in the annular groove (13) of the air pipe (10) and rested on a bottom (23) of the adjusting valve (21) of the valve cap (20)" as recited.

Regarding claim 12, in the device of the prior art, "the air pipe (10) has a mediate portion formed with a locking ring (read at threads 16) secured on a valve seat (30) of an air cushion (32)" as recited.

Regarding claim 13, in the device of the prior art, "the locking ring (16) of the air pipe (10) has a lower end formed with an insert inserted into and locked in the valve seat (30) of the air cushion (32)" as recited.

Regarding claim 18, in the device of the prior art, "each of the locking members (24) of the valve cap (2) has a strip shape, and each of the locking members (14) of the air pipe (10) has a strip shape" as recited.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

Art Unit: 3753

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 2, 4, 5, 10, 16 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the device of the prior art of figure 7 of the application in view of Wu et al.

The device of the prior art of figure 7 discloses all the claimed features with the exception of having the "locking members" of both the "cap" and pipe" to be "helical and...at the same height", the air pipe having a "plurality of passages between the locking members" and a spring to bias the cap away from the pipe.

The features called for by these claims are believed directed to a bayonet type attachment of the cap to the pipe in place of threads. Bayonet style coupling usually include the "spaces" through which pass the "locking members" of one half of the coupling for engagement with the "locking members" of the other half of the coupling.

The patent to Wu et al. discloses that it is known in the art to employ a bayonet style coupling at tabs 52, which are "helical" and at the "same height" of the "pipe" 16 cooperating with tabs 68, which are "helical" and at the "same height", of the "cap" 11 for the purpose of easily attaching the cap to the "pipe" 16 with a minimal amount of rotation, i.e. just enough rotation to firmly engage the tabs of the cap with the tabs of the pipe.

It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to employ in the device of the prior art a bayonet style coupling in place of the threaded connection between threads 14 and 24, for the purpose of easily attaching the cap 20 to the pipe 10 with a minimal amount of rotation,

i.e. just enough rotation to firmly engage the tabs of the cap with the tabs of the pipe as recognized by Wu et al.

Regarding claim 10, note spring 15 of Wu et al. which biases the cap away from the pipe.

Regarding claims 16 and 17, in the device of the prior art as modified by Wu et al., it is believed that the operational states recited in these claims are met by the structural rendition proffered by the combination.

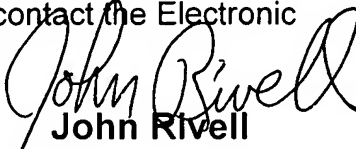
Claims 14 and 15 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John Rivell whose telephone number is (571) 272-4918. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Thur. from 6:30am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stephen Blau can be reached on (571) 272-4406. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


John Rivell
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3753

j.r.